THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One computer, 3 nos. A/C Spilt Unit, some stationery items and records of Jet Airways Engineering Office were damaged. Other than above 9 nos. of window panel, partial false ceiling and some furniture of Airports Authority of India's Accounts Office were also damaged.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee constituted by Airport Director to investigate the fire incidents have concluded that the fire was caused due to short circuit in electrical cable.

(e) A Committee consisting of fire, electrical and civil engineering has been constituted to inspect the entire building so as to see that no fire safety norms are violated by any of the agencies occuping airport terminals.

Foreign equity in Domestic Airlines

472. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to allow the foreign airlines to pick up equity in the domestic sector and to go in for technical tie up with domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign company has expressed its intention to subscribe the equity in the domestic sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to lease out the international airports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether Government propose to set up a regulatory authority and the creation of a civil aviation fund?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Domestic air transport policy adopted in January, 1997 does not permit equity from foreign airlins, directly or indirectly, in the domestic sector.

(c) and (d) Presently no foreign airline has expressed its interest to subscribe equity in the domestic sector.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government had in January, 2000 approved the proposal for restructuring the airports of the Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long term lease. At the first instance the airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for privatization through the route of long-term lease.

(g) The draft Civil Aviation Policy under finalisation, *inter-alia*, provide for to setting up a regulatory authority and creation of a Civil Aviation Development Fund.

Infusion of funds in AI

473. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to infuse more funds into Air India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor keeping in view its impending disinvestment; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to make Air India a profit making public undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAY HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Planning Commission